

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 /094 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9480
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
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AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP IS EG
SUBJ: SADAT VISIT: POST MORTUM BY THE PRESS

SUMMARY: ON THE MORNING AFTER THE VISIT, ISRAELI PRESS IS
DWELLING ON SADAT'S TUMULTUOUS HOME-COMING, THE EXCHANGES

BETWEEN SADAT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AS THE VISIT'S HIGHLIGHT AND THE BOND THAT SEEMED TO DEVELOP BETWEEN SADAT AND EZER WEIZMAN. THERE ARE REPORTS OF A HOT-LINE TO BE SET UP AND OF AGREEMENT REACHED ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AND ON GENEVA WORKING GROUPS. WHILE SOME PAPERS CONTINUE TO URGE A GOI CONCESSION COMMENSURATE WITH SADAT'S COURAGEOUS GAMBLE, OTHERS REMIND THAT HIS VISIT WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR NEGOTIATING COMPROMISES ON BORDERS THAT ISRAELIS DEMAND. END SUMMARY

1. THE ISRAELI PRESS CONTINUES TO DEVOTE ITS FRONT PAGES AND EDITORIALS TO THE SADAT VISIT TO THE VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF OTHER NEWS. HEAVY COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO SADAT'S TUMULTUOUS RECEPTION IN CAIRO, WHICH WAS CARRIED LIVE ON ISRAEL'S TV -- ANOTHER "FIRST" IN THE LONG LINE OF "FIRSTS" GENERATED BY SADAT'S VISIT. SOME COMMENTATORS POINT TO THE SCALE AND ENTHUSIASM OF HIS WELCOME AS SIGNIFICANT AS THE VISIT ITSELF. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY HIS DRIVE TO THE PALACE FROM THE AIRPORT IN AN OPEN LIMOUSINE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS PEOPLES' APPROVAL OF HIS HISTORIC INITIATIVE.

2. YESTERDAY'S EVENTS, PARTICULARLY THE TELEVISED EXCHANGES BETWEEN SADAT AND THE KNESSET FACTION, HAVE LARGELY DISSIPATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SLIGHT CHILL AND DEFLATION THAT DEVELOPED ON THE HEELS OF THE FORMAL SPEECHES BEFORE THE KNESSET NOV 20. OF COURSE, SOME OF THE STATEMENTS AT THOSE MEETINGS WERE MORE INTERESTING THAN OTHERS, (WE THOUGHT GOLDA, BEN MEIR, RUBENSTEIN, EBAN, ELIAV, AND CERTAINLY SADAT, WERE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE), BUT OVERALL IT WAS PROBABLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT. WATCHING THE INTERACTION OF SADAT WITH THIS ARRAY OF ISRAELI LEADERS CONVINCED THE PUBLIC, LIKE NO OTHER SINGLE EVENT, THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER HAD TRULY BEEN BROKEN. THE BANTER BETWEEN GOLDA AND SADAT WAS ESPECIALLY HEART-WARMING.

3. THERE IS ALSO EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF A BRIEF ENCOUNTER YESTERDAY BETWEEN SADAT AND DEFENSE MINISTER EZAR WEIZMAN. SADAT WAS IN HIS CAR ABOUT TO PROCEED TO PRESIDENT KATZIR'S RESIDENCE WHEN HE NOTICED WEIZMAN NEARBY IN A WHEELCHAIR. (HE IS RECUPERATING FROM A BROKEN ANKLE SUFFERED IN A ROAD ACCIDENT.) SADAT JUMPED OUT OF THE LIMOUSINE, AFFECTIONATELY GRABBED WEIZMAN AND PLACED A KISS ON EACH OF HIS CHEEKS. WEIZMAN STARTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR BEING UNABLE TO SEE HIM

OFF AT THE AIRPORT AND SADAT TOLD HIM HE UNDERSTOOD.
EARLIER SADAT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID TO BEGIN "I LIKE
THAT EZER," AND, IN FACT, SADAT INVITED WEIZMAN FOR
A PRIVATE HALF HOUR MEETING YESTERDAY MORNING. ISRAELIS
NOTE THE IRONY OF THE BOND THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN
THE TWO IN VIEW OF WEIZMAN'S ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE
IAF, THE NEMESIS OF EGYPT IN THE 1967 WAR AND THE
WAR OF ATTRITION.

4. OTHER REPORTS CIRCULATING TODAY
INCLUDE: THE SETTING UP OF
A HOT-LINE BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO WAS AGREED
TO IN ONE OF THE BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS. MATTI
GOLAN CLAIMS THAT DAYAN'S MYSTERIOUS MEETING IN EUROPE
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LAST SEPTEMBER WAS WITH A VERY SENIOR EGYPTIAN FIGURE.
EGYPTIAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BUTROUS GHALI TOLD
CORRESPONDENTS THAT THE LAST PRIVATE TALK BETWEEN SADAT
AND BEGIN WAS THE DECISIVE ONE AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN
ALL THE PUBLIC SPEECHES. HE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT

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DIFFERENCES ON MOST ISSUES REMAINED BUT THE POSITIONS
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ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA AND THE WORKING
GROUPS FOR PREPARING THE GENEVA TALKS WITHOUT PARTICIPATION
OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVE DRAWN CLOSER.
ANOTHER REPORT MAINTAINS THAT EGYPT IS READY
TO PROCEED TO GENEVA WITHOUT PLO PARTICIPATION AND EVEN
WITHOUT SYRIA. A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US
THAT A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER TODAY CARRIED A M.E.N.A. STORY
OF INTEREST BY THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC IN A SEPARATE PEACE
TREATY WITH ISRAEL. THERE ARE HINTS IN THE PRESS THAT
THE VISIT HAS DOWNGRADED GENEVA. SEVERAL PRESS STORIES
DISCUSS THE PROSPECT OF A FUTURE BEGIN-SADAT MEETING,
PROBABLY IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS A CONTINUATION OF
CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BY THEIR AMBASSADORS
IN THE US OR ONE OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

5. THERE IS A NOTICEABLE EFFORT IN TODAY'S EDITORIALS
TO SOBER UP THE PUBLIC FOR THE TRIALS AHEAD. SEVERAL
CONTINUE TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FORTHCOMING IN
THE PEACE PROCESS. DAVAR ENTITLES ITS EDITORIAL "NOW
IT'S ISRAEL'S TURN FOR AN INITIATIVE." THE JERUSALEM
POST MAINTAINS THAT THERE IS A WIDE NATIONAL CONSENSUS,
STRETCHING FROM THE ALIGNMENT TO THE LIBERALS AND IN-
CLUDING THE DMC AND MANY IN THE NEP, FOR A BOLDLY
IMAGINATIVE PEACE POLICY. THE POST SAYS, HOWEVER,
"THIS CONSENSUS IS BEING DISTORTED BY THE PREDOMINANCE
IN THE SHAPING OF FOREIGN POLICY OF ONE RELATIVELY
SMALL FACTION--BEGIN'S OWN."

6. HAARETZ ASSERTS THAT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE RISKS HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF IN COMING TO ISRAEL, THIS DOES NOT RELIEVE SADAT OF OBLIGATIONS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON THE PRACTICAL QUESTIONS WHICH SEPARATE ISRAEL AND EGYPT. IT CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS A LOT OF WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STILL TO BE DONE, BOTH BY ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS, "BEFORE WE CAN BREATHE FREELY."

7. ALSO SUGGESTING THAT SADAT'S VISIT IS UNSUFFICIENT FOR ISRAEL TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY ON EGYPT'S TERMS IS TODAY'S MAARIV EDITORIAL. WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO HIS CHARM, MAARIV SAYS DADAT GAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF READINESS TO CHANGE HIS BASIC POSITIONS. FOR PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING PEACE SMILES AND HANDSHAKES ARE NOT ENOUGH. THERE MUST BE WILLINGNESS BY EGYPT AND THE OTHER ARAB STATES TO NEGOTIATE ON BORDERS.

MAARIVE ALSO WARNS THAT ALTHOUGH SADAT MAY HAVE RENOUNCED WAR, HE DOES NOT AT THE MOMENT SPEAK FOR THE OTHER ARAB STATES.

8. IN GENERAL, ATTENTION AND SPECULATION ARE NOW TURNED FROM THE PRIVATE WORKING SESSIONS DURING THE VISIT TO THE ANTICIPATED FUTURE CONTACTS, WHETHER THEY BE AT THE SUMMIT OR DIPLOMATIC LEVELS. AS ONE MFA OFFICIAL PUT IT, ISRAEL'S IMMEDIATE HOPES REST ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE CONTACTS BEGUN THIS PAST WEEKEND. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS PARTICULAR INTEREST IN HOW REACTION DEVELOPS IN THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND WHAT SADAT WILL SAY ON SATURDAY TO THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT.

9. FINALLY, THERE IS DISCUSSION ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS IN THE OFFICIAL PARTY; THE EGYPTIAN PRESS AND THEIR ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS: THE CORDIALITY OF THE CONTACTS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AND AT ALL LEVELS FROM SADAT ON DOWN, DELIGHTED THE ISRAELI HOSTS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, ISRAELIS HANDLING THE VISIT DID THEIR UTMOST TO MAKE IT ALL SUCCEED--AS IF TO COMPENSATE IN CEREMONY AND HOSPITALITY WHAT THEY FELT UNABLE TO DO SUBSTANTIALLY ON THE ISSUES. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS THEIR FIRST CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE HOW FRIENDLY
THEY COULD BE TO A NEIGHBOR'S GOVERNMENT; BY AND LARGE
THEY MADE THE MOST OF IT. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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